

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 02250 170317Z

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 OIC-04 ISO-00 DLOS-07 INT-08 IO-14 CG-00 CEA-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 CEQ-02

COA-02 COME-00 EB-11 EPA-04 NSF-04 SCI-06 JUSE-00

ACDA-19 AEC-11 AGR-20 DOTE-00 CIEP-02 OMB-01 DRC-01

/228 W

----- 011474

R 170155Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8387

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY SUVA

CINCPAC

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 2250

CARACAS FOR LOSDEL

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, NZ

SUBJ: COOK ISLANDS PREMIER TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITIES OF

COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE

1. IN PRESS AND TV STATEMENTS JULY 14 COOK ILSANDS
PREMIER SIR ALBERT HENRY INDICATED HIS COUNTRY MAY
SEEK FULL INDEPENDENCE. (AT PRESENT COOK ISLANDS
DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS HANDLED BY GNZ.) STATEMENT
COMES AS SURPRISE TO MFA PERSONNEL WHO HAD FEW INDICATIONS
OF DIRECTION SIR ALBERT'S THINKING.

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PAGE 02 WELLIN 02250 170317Z

2. SUDDEN INTEREST IN TOTAL INDEPENDENCE STEMS FROM

REPORTED DISCOVERY OF LARGE DEPOSITS MANGANESE NODULES
OFF COOK ISLANDS. DISCOVERY MADE BY NZ DEPARTMENT
SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH SHIP EARLY THIS YEAR
WHILE SHIP WAS ON OCEANOGRAPHIC VOYAGE DOING OTHER
RESEARCH. ACTUAL QUANTITY AND EXTENT OF DEPOSITS UNKNOWN.

3. ACCORDING TO MFA DEPOSITS ARE OUTSIDE COOK ISLANDS
TERRITORIAL WATERS BUT WOULD BE WITHIN A 200 MILE
ECONOMIC ZONE. BECAUSE OF THIS COOK ISLANDS INTEREST
IN LOS CONFERENCE AND GNZ'S REPRESENTATION OF COOKS IN
CARACAS HAS SUDDENLY ASSUMED NEW DIMENSION. SIR ALBERT
ARRIVED WELLINGTON JULY 16 TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH GNZ.
HE HAS ALSO ANNOUNCED HE WILL BE GOING TO CARACAS TO
TAKE PART IN LOS CONFERENCE.

4. GNZ REACTION TO SIR ALBERT'S STATEMENTS HAS BEEN
RELAXED . KIRK GOVERNMENT FEELS CERTAIN RESPONSIBILITY
TOWARD COOK ISLANDS BUT WILL NOT MAKE ANY WAVES SHOULD
TOTAL INDEPENDENCE BECOME THE ORDER OF THE DAY.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRIME MINISTER, INDEPENDENCE, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974WELLIN02250
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740191-0286
From: WELLINGTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740740/aaaabhtq.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 OCT 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 OCT 2002 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <17 JAN 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COOK ISLANDS PREMIER TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITIES OF COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, NZ, CW, (HENRY, ALBERT SIR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005